

605.7 SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT INVESTIGATIONS

Federal

MODIFIED

An administrative investigation, criminal investigation or both shall be completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (28 CFR 115.22). Administrative investigations shall include an effort to determine whether the staff's actions or inaction contributed to the abuse. All administrative and/or criminal investigations shall be documented in written reports that include a description of the physical and testimonial evidence, the reasoning behind credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings. Only investigators who have completed office-approved training on sexual abuse and sexual harassment investigation shall be assigned to investigate these cases (28 CFR 115.71).

When practicable, an investigator of the same sex as the victim should be assigned to the case. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment investigations should be conducted promptly and continuously until completed. Investigators should evaluate reports or threats of sexual abuse and sexual harassment without regard to an inmate's sexual orientation, sex or gender identity. Investigators should not assume that any sexual activity among inmates is consensual.

The departure of the alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of the jail or office shall not provide a basis for terminating an investigation (28 CFR 115.71).

If the investigation is referred to another agency for investigation, the Office shall request that the investigating agency follow the requirements as provided in 28 CFR 115.21 (a) through (e). The referral shall be documented. The Office shall cooperate with the outside agency investigation and shall request to be informed about the progress of the investigation (28 CFR 115.71). If criminal acts are identified as a result of the investigation, the case shall be presented to the appropriate prosecutor's office for filing of new charges (28 CFR 115.71).

If the investigation needs to be referred to another agency, it would be referred to the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

Evidence collection shall be based on a uniform evidence protocol that is developmentally appropriate for youth, if applicable, and adapted from or otherwise based on the most recent edition of the DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women publication, "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents," or similarly comprehensive and authoritative protocols developed after 2011 (28 CFR 115.21).

Inmates alleging sexual abuse shall not be required to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with an investigation (28 CFR 115.71).

If a victim is under 18 or considered a vulnerable adult under state law, the assigned investigator shall report the allegation to the designated social services agency as required (28 CFR 115.61).

Substantiated allegations of conduct that appear to be criminal are referred for prosecution.